

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. In an extraction process comprising extracting a raw extract from *Emblica officinalis* the improvement comprising conducting the extraction under conditions of time, temperature and atmosphere, to inhibit the formation of black specks and/or oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins and/or oxidation products thereof.
2. A process according to Claim 1, comprising inhibiting the formation of said oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight above 1000.
3. In a process of producing a powdered extract of *Emblica officinalis*, comprising the step of drying an aqueous solution of the extract, the improvement comprising conducting the drying under conditions of time, temperature and atmosphere so as to inhibit the formation of oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins and/or oxidation products thereof and/or black specks.
4. A process according to Claim 3 comprising inhibiting the formation of said oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight above 1000.
5. A process comprising enriching an extract of *Emblica officinalis*, comprising the steps of :
 - A) providing an aqueous suspension of *Emblica officinalis*, said aqueous suspension containing dissolved components of *Emblica officinalis* and water-insoluble components comprising black specks and/or oligomeric and polymeric tannins; and
 - B) separating the insoluble components from said dissolved components to obtain an enriched aqueous extract of *Emblica officinalis*.
6. A process according to Claim 5, further comprising a preceding step of dispersing a powdered extract of *Emblica officinalis* in an aqueous solution to form said aqueous suspension.

7. A process according to Claim 5, wherein said separating comprises subjecting said suspension to centrifugation or pressure filtration.

8. A process according to Claim 5, wherein said separating comprises adding a filter-aid to said aqueous suspension and filtering out the insoluble components of the suspension so as to obtain an enriched aqueous filtrate of *Emblica officinalis*.

9. A process according to Claim 5, wherein said aqueous suspension has a concentration of 5-30% by weight of total solids of *Emblica officinalis*.

10. A process according to Claim 5, wherein said aqueous suspension has a concentration of 18-22% by weight of total solids of *Emblica officinalis*.

11. A process according to Claim 6, wherein said aqueous suspension has a concentration of 5-30% by weight of total solids of *Emblica officinalis*.

12. A process according to Claim 6, wherein said aqueous suspension has a concentration of 18-22% by weight of total solids of *Emblica officinalis*.

13. A process according to Claim 10, comprising subjecting said aqueous suspension to sufficient centrifugation to obtain an enriched extract of *Emblica officinalis* macroscopically substantially to completely devoid of black specks.

14. A process according to Claim 5, further comprising drying the separated enriched aqueous extract of *Emblica officinalis*.

15. A process according to Claim 6, further comprising drying the separated enriched aqueous extract of *Emblica officinalis*.

16. A process according to Claim 15, wherein said drying step comprises spray drying or freeze drying.

17. A process according to Claim 14, comprising drying said solution of *Emblica officinalis* under conditions of time, temperature and atmosphere so as to inhibit the formation of oligomeric and/or polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of over 1000.

18. A process according to Claim 16, wherein said drying comprises freeze drying.
19. An extract of *Emblica officinalis* produced by the process of Claim 1.
20. An extract of *Emblica officinalis* produced by the process of Claim 3.
21. An extract of *Emblica officinalis* produced by the process of Claim 5.
22. An extract of *Emblica officinalis* produced by the process of Claim 6.
23. In a powdered composition of *Emblica officinalis*, the improvement wherein said composition is macroscopically substantially to completely devoid of black specks.
24. A composition according to Claim 23, wherein such composition contains at least 75% by weight of bio-active low molecular weight hydrolysable tannins.
25. In a powdered composition of, *Emblica officinalis* the improvement wherein the composition contains less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 1000.
26. In a powdered composition of, *Emblica officinalis*, according to Claim 23, the improvement wherein the composition contains less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 3000.
27. A skin or hair or personal care composition formed from ingredients comprising a powdered composition according to Claim 26.
28. A process according to Claim 1, wherein the extraction is conducted so as to result in a water-soluble extract containing less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 3,000.
29. A process according to Claim 3, conducted under conditions sufficient to provide in a dried composition containing less than 5% by weight of oligomeric and polymeric tannins having a molecular weight of above 3,000 and substantially to completely devoid of black specks.

30. An extract produced in accordance with the process of Claim 28.
31. A dried composition produced in accordance with the process of Claim 29.
32. A skin or personal care composition according to claim 26 in the form of a lotion, crème, stick, spray or gel.
33. A skin or personal care composition according to claim 32 which contains about 0.05 to 5% of said tannins.
34. A pharmaceutical or nutritional composition formed from ingredients comprising a powdered composition according to claim 26 in the form of a tablet, capsules, elixir, syrup, or drinks.
35. A pharmaceutical or nutritional composition according to claim 34 formed from about 0.05 to 20% of said powdered composition.